

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Jerry Polus, John Walschinski, Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Rosemary Desisles, Carl Soderberg, Sherry Steenbock, John Maino

EXCUSED: Bernie Erickson, Joe Witkowski, Troy Ness

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1251

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Polus at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of April 17, 2012.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this time Jerry Polus introduced a guest, Carl Soderberg. Mr. Soderberg is a field representative for Congressman Reid Ribble. Polus explained the purpose and history of this Subcommittee to Soderberg and outlined some of the activities the Subcommittee is involved in such as Veterans Day activities, Military Appreciation Day at the Fair and recognition certificates.

5. Discussion Regarding Military Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair.

Polus stated he would like to have the agenda for the event developed by the June meeting to be sure it is compatible with the band and the Veterans Meet and Greet group activities. Ron Van Dyke of the Fair Board will be invited to the June meeting to go over the agenda as well. Any final adjustments to the agenda can be handled at the July meeting. Polus also stated that he would like to have a draft of the poster and tickets completed by the June meeting for the Subcommittee's review. Upon approval the posters and tickets will be printed and distributed to area veterans' organizations, subcommittee members, the Job Center, VA Clinic and ADRC.

Polus asked for an update from the group that attended the meeting with the Meet and Greet group. Duane Pierce stated that the Meet and Greet group will have their tables set up from noon until 8:00 p.m. Pierce also stated that he and Jim Haskins will handle the door prize distribution and they were thinking of doing this between 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. Rolling Thunder will then do their table ceremony at 6:30 p.m. and the band is scheduled to play from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The band will take care of their sound check earlier in the afternoon. Polus also stated that Bernie Erickson was able to get 12 tickets to the Hall of Fame donated by the Packers. Members of the subcommittee will take the band to the Hall of Fame and out for lunch prior to them doing their sound check.

Polus stated that the program will start at approximately 6:30 p.m. with County Executive Troy Streckenbach saying a few words, followed by Bernie Erickson and then the table ceremony which will be followed by presentation of the colors and then the band performance. John Maino said that he will be available to act as emcee. Maino also stated that he would be able to have some patriotic music loaded onto an iPod to be played in the tent if needed.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus and Discussion Regarding Company Store and Need to Reorder With Possible Action.

Polus stated that his office is now fully staffed as they have re-hired a former employee whose job had previously been bumped. He also stated that one of his staff members will be out for two months on maternity leave. He stated that his office has been very busy lately and they have been seeing a lot of people from the 432nd. Polus also reported that he needs to place an order for more tee shirts and mugs.

MOTION MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ORDER THREE DOZEN TEE SHIRTS AND TWO DOZEN MUGS FOR THE COMPANY STORE. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Polus concluded by reporting that Veterans Court is going very well and there are currently three vets in the program. Polus thought that this number would increase to about 7 - 9 by month end. Court is held on Friday afternoons.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski).

-Jim Haskins – reported that he had seen an ad on television that Golden Corral continues to support Camp Corral, a week long camp for children of soldiers who have been injured or killed while serving. Haskins also recently saw that active vets can get a free pass to all National Parks on Armed Forces Day with a military id card.

-John Walschinski – reported that Duck Creek VFW Post 7534 will have their Memorial Day ceremony on May 28 at Memorial Park at 8:00 a.m. There will also be a service at St. John's Cemetery and a parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Church which will proceed to Velp Avenue and then to Riverview for a ceremony at Duck Creek Cemetery. Food and beverages will be available at the VFW following the parade. Walschinski also reported that a two acre parcel of land across from the VFW Post is being developed into a Veterans Memorial Park.

-Sherry Steenbock – reported that three new certificates have been mailed out. She also stated that she had spoken with Dave Behrendt regarding the date for the WIXX radio show for Veterans Day and the date still has not been decided but Behrendt will get back to her once the decision is made.

-John Maino – reported that he is working on the City Stadium 5K Run for the Wounded Warriors Softball Team on September 8, 2012. The run will start and finish at City Stadium. The Wounded Warriors Softball Team is a group of young men who are all amputees from Iraq and Afghanistan. They will be playing in Fond du Lac on July 7 and Maino encouraged the subcommittee to attend if they could as it is an amazing team.

Maino also reported that he had been at a funeral recently for a Vietnam vet and Brown County Sheriff's Deputy, Pat Gilson, and he asked the subcommittee to remember his family in their thoughts.

-Rosemary Desisles – reported that the bid to host the National 101st Airborne Convention in Green Bay had been lost, however, the Old Abe Chapter will still be holding a two day convention in Green Bay next summer and she will keep the subcommittee advised of what role we can play in that event.

-Jerry Polus – reported that the NWTC auto repair program had donated a car to the Veterans Office. It is a 2002 Dodge Neon and will replace the old Crown Victoria they have been using for the past 12 years.

-Duane Pierce – reported that he had seen a blurb that Veterans will be admitted to the Botanical Gardens on Memorial Day at no charge. He also stated that DVA will be doing their regular Memorial Day Ceremony behind the Museum at 8:00 a.m. and then will march in the De Pere Parade. He also reported that the American Legion Post will be doing a ceremony at Heritage

Hill at 10:00 a.m. and finally the United Patriotic Society will be doing their ceremony on Memorial Day at Flatley Park at 5:00 p.m.

8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Carl Soderberg reported that he had recently attended the dedication of an apple orchard in Keshena on the primary school property. The orchard was dedicated to a Menominee Nation veteran who had served in WWII and was also a tribal elder and master gardener.

9. Adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO ADJOURN AT 5:41 p.m. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary